

Message Text

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ACTION SWF-01

INFO OCT-01 EUR-08 ISO-00 AGR-05 AID-05 IO-04 EB-04 L-01

COME-00 STR-01 CIEP-01 OMB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-01 INR-05 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OIC-02 /074 W

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R 311548Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9774

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BERN 4082

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, SZ

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE - SWISS VIEWS

REF: A) STATE 237804; B) STATE 239058

1. FOLLOWING WILL BE SWISS DELEGATION TO WFC--HEAD:
JEAN-CLAUDE PIOT, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF AGRICULTURE.
DEPUTIES: DR HANS POPP, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
AGRICULTURE; AND FRITZ STAEHELIN, CHIEF, OFFICE OF LDC
AFFAIRS, DIVISION OF COMMERCE. DELEGATES: DR RICHARD
GAECHTER, CHIEF MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS SECTION, FEDERAL
POLITICAL DEPARTMENT; HANS BUCHMANN, CHIEF, SECTION FOR
INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS, DIVISION OF COMMERCE;
HEINZ HOFER, DIVISION OF COMMERCE; MICHEL BESSON, CHIEF,
INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC RELATIONS SECTION, DIVISION
AGRICULTURE; RUDOLF DE POURTALES, DIVISION OF
AGRICULTURE; AND ROGER PASQUIER, PERMANENT SWISS DEL
TO FAO.

2. EMBOFF PROVIDED STAEHELIN US VIEWS ON WFC SECRETARIAT
PROPOSALS (REFTEL A). STAEHELIN REPLIED THAT SWISS POSITION
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VERY CLOSE TO THAT OF US WITH FOLLOWING NUANCES.

A. RES I - FOOD PRODUCTION - SWISS STRONGLY SUPPORT NEED FOR GREATER LDC FOOD PRODUCTION BUT ALSO FEEL LDCS SHOULD MAKE GREATER EFFORTS TO IMPROVE INTERNAL FOOD DISTRIBUTION SYSTEMS.

B. RES IV - AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH - IMPORTANCE SWISS ATTACH TO NEED FOR MORE RESEARCH EVIDENCED BY INTENTION TO INCREASE ALLOCATION OF LIMITED AID FUNDS TO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH. SWISS ALSO BELIEVE, HOWEVER, THAT GREATER EFFORTS TO DISSEMINATE EXISTING KNOWLEDGE EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN NEW RESEARCH.

C. RES VII - WORLD FOOD SECURITY - AS SWITZERLAND ONLY 50 PERCENT SELF-SUFFICIENT IN FOOD, SWISS VIEW PROBLEM OF FOOD SECURITY FIRST IN TERMS OF THEIR OWN INTERESTS, WITH FOOD SECURITY FOR LDCS A SECONDARY QUESTION. BECAUSE SWISS COULD INCREASE FOOD PRODUCTION ONLY AT GREAT COST, THEY SEE THEIR FOOD SECURITY AS DEPENDENT ON STABLE WORLD MARKETS, AS WELL AS ON INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS ON STOCKPILING. FAO PROPOSAL DOES NOT GO FAR ENOUGH REGARDING NEED FOR BETTER COORDINATION OF NATIONAL STOCKPILING. MORE ATTENTION SHOULD BE PAID TO EFFECTS OF STOCKPILING ON WORLD MARKET PRICES. SWISS BELIEVE THAT STOCKS SHOULD BE MANAGED IN SUCH A WAY TO ENCOURAGE GREATER PRODUCTION.

3. WITH REGARD TO FOLLOW-MECHANISMS (REFTEL B),
STAEHELIN SAID SIXXX SWISS "FULLY SHARE US VIEWS."
DAVIS

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